

McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms

Fifth Edition

Sybil P. Parker
Editor in Chief

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On the cover: Photomicrograph of crystals of vitamin B₁.
(Dennis Kunkel, University of Hawaii)

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tra.

epiphysis [ANAT] 1. The end portion of a long bone in vertebrates. 2. See pineal body. { 'ə'pif-əs }
epiphyte [ECOL] A plant which grows nonparasitically on another plant or on some nonliving structure, such as a building or telephone pole, deriving moisture and nutrients from the air. Also known as aerophyte. { 'ep-ə'fīt }
epiphytic [PL PATH] 1. Any infectious plant disease that occurs sporadically in epidemic proportions. 2. Of or pertaining to an epidemic plant disease. { 'ep-ə'fīt'it-ik }
epiplankton [BIOL] Plankton occurring in the sea from the surface to a depth of about 100 fathoms (180 meters). { 'ep-ə'plāŋk-tən }
epipleural [ANAT] Arising from a rib. [VERT ZOO] An intramuscular bone arising from and extending between some of the ribs in certain fishes. { 'ep-ə'plūr-əl }
epiploic foramen [ANAT] An aperture of the peritoneal cavity, formed by folds of the peritoneum and located between the liver and the stomach. Also known as foramen of Winslow. { 'ep-ə'plō-ik fə'rāmən }
epipodite [INV ZOO] A branch of the basal joint of the propodite of thoracic limbs of many arthropods. { 'ə'pīp-ədīt }
epipodium [BOT] The apical portion of an embryonic phyllopodium. [INV ZOO] 1. A ridge or fold on the lateral edges of each side of the foot of certain gastropod mollusks. 2. The elevated ring on an ambulacral plate in Echinoidea. { 'ep-ə'pōd-ē-əm }
Epipolasina [INV ZOO] A suborder of sponges in the order Clavasinellida having radially arranged monactinal or diactinal megascleres. { 'ep-ə'pə'laz-ə-nə }
epiproct [INV ZOO] A plate above the anus forming the dorsal part of the tenth or eleventh somite of certain insects. { 'ep-ə'prəkt }
epipubis [VERT ZOO] A single cartilage or bone located in front of the pubis in some vertebrates, particularly in some amphibians. { 'ep-ə'pyū-bəs }
EPIRB See emergency position-indicating radio beacon. { 'ē'pərb }
episciera [ANAT] The loose connective tissue lying between the conjunctiva and the sclera. { 'ep-ə'skī-er-ə }
episcopes See epidiastopes. { 'ep-ə'skōp }
episcotister [OPTICS] A device for reducing the intensity of light by a known fraction, consisting of a rapidly rotating disk with transparent and opaque sectors. { 'ep-ə'skō'tis-tər }
episepalous [BOT] Having stamens growing on or adnate to the sepals. { 'ep-ə'sep-ə-ləs }
episiotomy [MED] Medial or lateral incision of the vulva during childbirth, to avoid undue laceration. { ə'pēz-ē'ād-ə-mē }
episode [GEOL] A distinctive event or series of events in the geologic history of a region or feature. { 'ep-ə'sōd }
episome [GEN] A circular genetic element in bacteria, presumably a deoxyribonucleic acid fragment, which is not necessary for survival of the organism and which can be integrated in the bacterial chromosome or remain free. { 'ep-ə'sōm }
epispadias [MED] A congenital defect of the anterior urethra in which the canal terminates on the dorsum of the penis and posterior to its normal opening. { 'ep-ə'spād-ē-əs }
episperm See testa. { 'ep-ə'spərm }
epi spiral [MATH] A plane curve whose equation in polar coordinates (r, θ) is $r \cos n\theta = a$, where a is a constant and n is an integer. { 'ep-ē'spī-rəl }
epistasis [GEN] The suppression of the effect of one gene by another. [MED] A checking or stoppage of a hemorrhage or other discharge. [PATH] A scum or film of substance floating on the surface of urine. { ə'pīst-əs-əs }
episternum [VERT ZOO] A dermal bone or pair of bones ventral to the sternum of certain fishes and reptiles. { 'ep-ə'stər-nəm }
epistilbite [MINERAL] $\text{CaAl}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{16} \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ A mineral of the zeolite family that contains calcium and aluminosilicate and crystallizes in the monoclinic system; occurs in white prismatic crystals or granular forms. { 'ep-ə'stīl'bīt }
epistome [INV ZOO] 1. The area between the mouth and the second antennae in crustaceans. 2. The plate covering this region. 3. The area between the labrum and the epicranium in many insects. 4. A flap covering the mouth of certain bryozoans. 5. The area just above the labrum in certain dipterans. { 'ep-ə'stōm }
epitaxial diffused-junction transistor [ELECTR] A junction

transistor produced by growing a thin, high-purity layer of semiconductor material on a heavily doped region of the same material. { 'ep-ə'tak-sē-əl dā'fyzd 'jəŋk-shən trān'zist-ər }
epitaxial diffused-mesa transistor [ELECTR] A diffused-mesa transistor in which a thin, high-resistivity epitaxial layer is deposited on the substrate to serve as the collector. { 'ep-ə'tak-sē-əl dā'fyzd 'mā-sə trān'zist-ər }
epitaxial layer [SOLID STATE] A semiconductor layer having the same crystalline orientation as the substrate on which it is grown. { 'ep-ə'tak-sē-əl, lā-ər }
epitaxial transistor [ELECTR] Transistor with one or more epitaxial layers. { 'ep-ə'tak-sē-əl trān'zist-ər }
epitaxy [CRYSTAL] Growth of one crystal on the surface of another crystal in which the growth of the deposited crystal is oriented by the lattice structure of the substrate. { 'ep-ə'tak-sē }
epithalamus [ANAT] A division of the vertebrate brain including the habenula, the pineal body, and the posterior commissure. { 'ep-ə'thal-ə-məs }
epitheca [INV ZOO] 1. An external, calcareous layer covering the basal portion of the theca of many corals. 2. A covering of the epicone. 3. The outer portion of a frustule. { 'ep-ə'thē-kə }
epithellochorial placenta [EMBRYO] A type of placenta in which the maternal epithelium and fetal epithelium are in direct contact. Also known as villous placenta. { 'ep-ə'thē-lō-ō'plā-sen-tə }
epithelioid cell [HISTOL] A macrophage that resembles an epithelial cell. Also known as alveolated cell. { 'ep-ə'thē-lō-oid, -sel }
epithelioma [MED] A tumor derived from epithelium, usually a skin cancer, occasionally cancer of a mucous membrane. { 'ep-ə'thē-lō-mə }
epitheliomuscular cell [INV ZOO] An epithelial cell that elongate base that contains contractile fibrils; common in cnidarians. { 'ep-ə'thē-lō-məs-kyə-lər 'sel }
epithellum [HISTOL] A primary animal tissue, distinguished by cells being close together with little intercellular space; covers free surfaces and lines body cavities and ducts. { 'ep-ə'thē-lē-əm }
epithema [VERT ZOO] A horny outgrowth on the beak of certain birds. { 'ep-ə'thē-mə }
epithermal [GEOL] Pertaining to mineral veins and deposits formed from warm waters at shallow depths at temperatures ranging from 50–200°C, and generally at some distance from the magmatic source. { 'ep-ə'thərməl }
epithermal deposit [GEOL] Ore deposit formed in openings in rocks by deposition at shallow depths from circulating hot solutions. { 'ep-ə'thərməld-ə'pāz-ət }
epithermal neutron [NUCLEO] A neutron having a kinetic energy in the range immediately above the thermal range, between 0.02 and 100 electronvolts. { 'ep-ə'thərməl 'nōt-rōn }
epithermal reactor [NUCLEO] A nuclear reactor in which a substantial fraction of fissions is induced by neutrons having more than thermal energy. { 'ep-ə'thərməl rē'ak-tər }
epithermal thorium reactor [NUCLEO] A sodium-cooled reactor based on operation with neutrons in the high-energy range; a uranium-thorium fuel mixture is used with graphite or beryllium as moderator. { 'ep-ə'thərməl 'tōr-əm rē'ak-tər }
epitoke [INV ZOO] The posterior portion of the body of chaetes; contains the gonads. { 'ep-ə'tōk }
epitoky [INV ZOO] In certain polychaetes, development of the posterior sexual part from the anterior sexless part. { 'ep-ə'tōk-ē }
epitope [IMMUNOL] The portion of the antigen that determines its capacity to combine with the specific site of its corresponding antibody in an antigen-antibody reaction. { 'ep-ə'tōp }
epitrichium [EMBRYO] The outer layer of the ectoderm of many mammals. { 'ep-ə'trik-ē-əm }
epitrochlear [ANAT] Of or pertaining to a ligament that lies above the trochlea of the elbow joint. { 'ep-ə'trōk-lēr }
epitrochoid [MATH] A curve traced by a point on a circle at a point other than the center when the circle is without slipping on the outside of a fixed circle. { 'ep-ə'trō-kōid }
epituberculosis [MED] A massive pulmonary tuberculosis.

films in active juvenile tuberculosis, producing bronchial obstruction. { 'ep-ə'tə,bərk-yə'lō-sə }
tympanum [ANAT] The attic of the middle ear. { 'ep-ə'tīmp-ə-nəm }
epithelium [INV ZOO] 1. The upper or apical sheet of cells. 2. The upper shell of a diatom. { 'ep-ə'thē-lē-əm }
epizootic [ECOL] Growing on wood; used especially in pathology. { 'ep-ə'zī-ōt-ik }
epizootic [BIOL] Living on the body of an animal. { 'ep-ə'zī-ōt-ik }
epizone [GEOL] 1. The zone of metamorphism characterized by moderate temperature, low hydrostatic pressure, and low fluid pressure. 2. The outer depth zone of metamorphism. { 'ep-ə'zī-ōn }
epizootic [VET MED] 1. Affecting many animals simultaneously; widely diffuse and rapid. 2. An extensive outbreak of an epizootic disease. { 'ep-ə'zī-ōt-ik }
epizootology [VET MED] The study of epizootic diseases. { 'ep-ə'zī-ōt-ə-lō-jē }
epizone [ELECTROMAG] An antenna with a magnetic field parallel to the electric field vector of the radiation. { 'ē'pī-zōn, -ten-ə }
epizone See E bend. { 'ē'pī-zōn, -bend }
epizone [ELECTROMAG] Waveguide structure in which the change in structure occurs in the plane of the wave. Also known as series T junction. { 'ē'pī-zōn }
epizone [MATER] A lubricating oil or grease used to improve ability to adhere to the surface under bearing pressures. Derived from extreme pressure. { 'ē'pī-zōn, -brək-kənt }
epizone [ELECTRON] electron probe microanalysis. { 'ē'pī-zōn }
epizone [ASTRON] A particular instant for which the positions of the stars are known. { 'ē'pī-zōn }
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